

Exploring Nature Near You in the Six Rivers Landscape

JUNE 5, 2015



The first Saturday of June is American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, the largest celebration of trails in the country. No matter where you are this Saturday, a trail awaits you. National Trails Day events will take place all across the country and will include hiking, biking and horseback riding, paddling trips, bird watching, geocaching, gear demonstrations, stewardship projects and more.



National Trails Day is a perfect day to discover Oakland County Parks. You can walk, jog, hike, bike or horseback ride on nearly 70 miles of paved and natural trails found within the 13 Oakland County Parks. If that's not enough to keep you on the move, there are endless miles of trails on locally managed **Oak Routes**, including Paint Creek Trail, Clinton River Trail, Huron Valley Trail, Polly Ann Trail, Macomb Orchard Trail, Milford Trail and the West Bloomfield Trail. In addition, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages hilly, serpentine trails in our heavily wooded State Recreation Areas and our one state park, Seven Lakes State Park. For those with a passion for paddling, river trails flow across the county offering excellent

kayaking and canoeing opportunities on three of our six regional rivers: the Shiawassee River, Clinton River and Huron River.



Adventurers need not explore alone, thanks to the **Six Rivers Adventure League**. Betsy Jagosz is the operations manager of the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy. The mission of the Conservancy is to *"conserve, sustain and connect natural areas, lands and waters that make the places we live special."* Jagosz states, "The Six Rivers Adventure League is excited to have Oakland County Parks as a partner and sponsor and to join with you in adding mountain biking to our list of adventures. We love to hear league participants say 'I never knew this was here!' and share in their excitement at discovering a new trail or kayak stretch. The whole purpose of the Adventure League is to help people discover the wonderful natural resources and recreational opportunities we have right here at home and to let everyone see and experience the nature near you."

Oakland County Parks Executive Officer Dan Stencil is proud of the partnership with the Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy, an organization whose work has an effect beyond political boundaries, and holds similar goals. Six Rivers works to conserve natural areas, rivers, lakes and wetlands and to protect their special relationship with the community throughout Southeast Michigan. The 2015 Adventure League schedule includes paddling on the Flint, Clinton and Shiawassee Rivers, Graham Lakes in the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area and at Belle Isle State Park. Hikes are planned at Stony Creek Metropark and Bloomer Parks. Numerous bike rides in Oakland and neighboring counties are on the agenda as well. Visit sixriversrlc.org for details and to join their email list for updates and schedules.

Text and photos by Jonathan Schechter, Nature Education Writer for Oakland County Parks. schechterj@oakgov.com



A Sampling of Activities for 2014

Just Completed Land Protection: New conservation easement on 182 acres near Goodrich. Our deepest appreciation to Libby Maynard and Olof Karlstrom for protecting their beautiful farm.

Adventure League: The biggest year so far, with hiking, biking or kayaking nearly every week from May through October, weather permitting. Watch our web, Facebook and email notices for coming outings and winter fun.

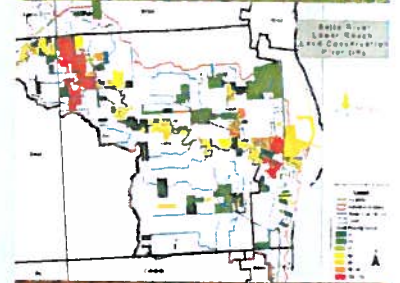
Supporting Public Partners: Bringing the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to Macomb County to highlight successful projects and opportunities for investment in conservation and recreation throughout the region.

Surveying the Landscape: Completing prioritization work in the Belle River Watershed and working to prioritize conservation lands in the Clinton River Watershed.

Taking the Next Steps: Initiating landowner outreach activities in the Huron watershed and other parts of our service territory.

Setting the Stage for Transformation: Prioritizing the land and analyzing the needs has set the stage for transformational growth. We have come to the time where we need to put more resources in the field. In the coming months we will be developing those resources to increase the pace of our land protection work. Invest in a future of abundant natural resources and open space—help us do more, protect more.

Libby Maynard and Olof Karlstrom hiking on their recently protected farm property near Goodrich



Belle River Lower Reach
Land Conservation Priorities

Olof Karlstrom & Libby Maynard (center) at their easement signing, flanked by Six Rivers' land protection director Danielle Devlin (left), Six Rivers' board president Mar Sclawy and executive director Chris Bunch (right)

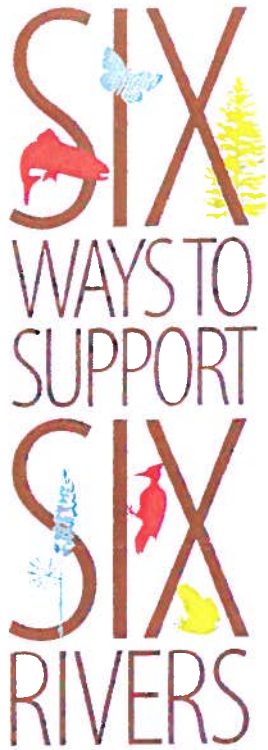


Adventure League



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SIX WAYS TO SUPPORT SIX RIVERS

1 Gift Memberships: For friends, family, co-workers, clients and customers. Introduce them to something that leaves a lasting legacy—helping to permanently protect the treasured spaces we call home.

2 Honorary Gifts: To commemorate special events or occasions, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries. Share something you care about with those you care about.

3 Memorial Contributions: Honor the memory of those who have passed with a contribution that carries forward for generations to come.

4 Gifts of Stock, Real Estate or other Appreciated Assets: Donating stocks, annuities or other appreciated assets is a simple way to support conservation and realize tax benefits for your contribution. Contact the Six Rivers office for assistance with this type of donation

5 Estate gifts: Leave a contribution through will, trust, life insurance or other estate planning mechanism and ensure your legacy is recognized and supports a rich and robust natural heritage. Contact the Six Rivers office for assistance with estate planning options.

6 Protect your Land: If you have natural or agricultural land you would like to protect, donate a conservation easement or a preserve. Leave your mark on the landscape, forever. Call us to discuss your conservation options.



Six Rivers Land Conservancy is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible as provided by law.

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